This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of searching comprising the steps of:

receiving from a user a search query requesting information;

retrieving at least one recommendation for alternative search results relating

to the search received query, the recommendation based on users search query

logs and search pattern information[[;]] , wherein the at least one recommendation

relating to the search query is retrieved from a recommendation database, and

wherein the recommendation database is generated by performing the steps of:

performing data mining using users search query logs, user search

patterns, and user profile information to generate a plurality of

recommendations relating to search query strings based on the users search

query logs, user search patterns, and user profile information,

generating a data structure including the recommendations relating

to search query strings, and

generating a text index based on information in the data structure;

generating an expanded query based on the received query;

performing a search using the expanded query to retrieve documents;

generating thematic clusters relating to the retrieved documents, the

thematic clusters generated by performing linguistic analysis of the retrieved

documents using linguistic extraction features to generate themes that describe the

retrieved documents; and

   presenting the recommendation for alternative search results, the thematic

clusters relating to the retrieved documents, and the retrieved documents.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the recommendation is

further based on user profile information.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the user profile information

comprises aggregate information.

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of generating a data structure

including the recommendations relating to search query strings comprises the steps

of:

populating an initial data structure with recommendations relating to search

query strings, including an equivalence table comprising a plurality of terms

and/or phrases and equivalents thereof;

converting the plurality of terms and/or phrases and equivalents thereof to

eXtensible Markup Language format; and

validating availability of the recommendations.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of retrieving at least one

recommendation relating to a search query string comprises the steps of:

parsing the received search query to generate a search query string;

searching the populated data structure using the search query string to find

a key associated with at least one recommendation relating to the search query

string; and

retrieving the at least one recommendation relating to the search query

string using the key.

9. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of retrieving at least one

recommendation relating to a search query string comprises the steps of:

parsing the received search query to generate a search query string;

searching the populated data structure using the search query string to find

a key associated with at least one recommendation relating to the search query

string, and if the key is found, retrieving the at least one recommendation relating

to the search query string using the key; and

searching the equivalence table of the populated data structure using the

search query string to find an alternative key associated with at least one

recommendation relating to the search query string, and retrieving the at least one

recommendation for information using the alternative key, if the key is not found.

10. (currently amended) A system for searching comprising:

a processor operable to execute computer program instructions; and

a memory operable to store computer program instructions executable by

the processor, for performing the steps of:

receiving from a user a search query requesting information;

retrieving at least one recommendation for alternative search results relating

to the ~~search~~ received query, the recommendation based on users search query

logs and search pattern information[[;]] , wherein the at least one recommendation

relating to the search query is retrieved from a recommendation database, and

wherein the recommendation database is generated by performing the steps of:

performing data mining using users search query logs, user search

patterns, and user profile information to generate a plurality of

recommendations relating to search query strings based on the users search

query logs, user search patterns, and user profile information,

generating a data structure including the recommendations relating

to search query strings, and

generating a text index based on information in the data structure;

generating an expanded query based on the received query;

performing a search using the expanded query to retrieve documents;

generating thematic clusters relating to the retrieved documents, the

thematic clusters generated by performing linguistic analysis of the retrieved

documents using linguistic extraction features to generate themes that describe the

retrieved documents; and

presenting the recommendation for alternative search results, the thematic

clusters relating to the retrieved documents, and the retrieved documents.

11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the recommendation is

further based on user profile information.

13. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein the user profile information

comprises aggregate information.

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the step of generating a data structure including the recommendations relating to search query strings comprises the steps of:

populating an initial data structure with recommendations relating to search query strings, including an equivalence table comprising a plurality of terms and/or phrases and equivalents thereof;

converting the plurality of terms and/or phrases and equivalents thereof to eXtensible Markup Language format; and

validating availability of the recommendations.

17. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the step of retrieving at least one recommendation relating to a search query string comprises the steps of:

parsing the received search query to generate a search query string;

searching the populated data structure using the search query string to find a key associated with at least one recommendation relating to the search query string; and

retrieving the at least one recommendation relating to the search query string using the key.

18. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the step of retrieving at least one recommendation relating to a search query string comprises the steps of:

parsing the received search query to generate a search query string;

searching the populated data structure using the search query string to find a key associated with at least one recommendation relating to the search query string, and if the key is found, retrieving the at least one recommendation relating to the search query string using the key; and

searching the equivalence table of the populated data structure using the search query string to find an alternative key associated with at least one recommendation relating to the search query string, and retrieving the at least one recommendation for information using the alternative key, if the key is not found.

19. (currently amended) A computer program product for performing a search in an electronic data processing system, comprising:

a computer readable medium;

computer program instructions, recorded on the computer readable medium, executable by a processor, for performing the steps of

receiving from a user a search query requesting information;

retrieving at least one recommendation for alternative search results relating to the ~~search~~ received query, the recommendation based on users search query logs and search pattern information[[;]] , wherein the at least one recommendation

relating to the search query is retrieved from a recommendation database, and wherein the recommendation database is generated by performing the steps of:

performing data mining using users search query logs, user search patterns, and user profile information to generate a plurality of recommendations relating to search query strings based on the users search query logs, user search patterns, and user profile information,

generating a data structure including the recommendations relating to search query strings, and

generating a text index based on information in the data structure;

generating an expanded query based on the received query;

performing a search using the expanded query to retrieve documents;

generating thematic clusters relating to the retrieved documents, the thematic clusters generated by performing linguistic analysis of the retrieved documents using linguistic extraction features to generate themes that describe the retrieved documents; and

presenting the recommendation for alternative search results, the thematic clusters relating to the retrieved documents, and the retrieved documents.

20. (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the recommendation is further based on user profile information.

22. (original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the user profile information comprises aggregate information.

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (original) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the step of generating a data structure including the recommendations relating to search query strings comprises the steps of:

populating an initial data structure with recommendations relating to search query strings, including an equivalence table comprising a plurality of terms and/or phrases and equivalents thereof;

converting the plurality of terms and/or phrases and equivalents thereof to eXtensible Markup Language format; and

validating availability of the recommendations.

26. (original) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the step of retrieving at least one recommendation relating to a search query string comprises the steps of:

parsing the received search query to generate a search query string;

searching the populated data structure using the search query string to find a key associated with at least one recommendation relating to the search query string; and

retrieving the at least one recommendation relating to the search query string using the key.

27. (original) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the step of retrieving at least one recommendation relating to a search query string comprises the steps of:

parsing the received search query to generate a search query string;

searching the populated data structure using the search query string to find a key associated with at least one recommendation relating to the search query string, and if the key is found, retrieving the at least one recommendation relating to the search query string using the key; and

searching the equivalence table of the populated data structure using the search query string to find an alternative key associated with at least one recommendation relating to the search query string, and retrieving the at least one recommendation for information using the alternative key, if the key is not found.